

(a) the amount of financial assistance given to Gujarat for the setting up of fodder banks under the Centrally sponsored scheme 'Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development' during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent by the State under the scheme during the said period;

(c) whether the Central Government are aware of the alleged misappropriation of funds on this account; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Rs. 26.25 lakhs (Central share) was released to the State of Gujarat for setting up of a Fodder Bank during 1994-95 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. 'Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development'. The sanction was revalidated for utilisation during 1995-96.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Marine Environment

4710. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether shipping casualties in the Indian waters caused any harm to the marine environment;

(b) if so, the number of such casualties reported during 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date and the extent of pollution caused in each casualty; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent pollution of marine environment caused by the shipping casualties?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) As per the information of the Coast Guard Headquarters, so far there is no such report of damage to marine environment around India due to marine casualties. In 1995-96 no casualty was reported except a minor spill by Dredger Mandovi II of Visakhapatnam. In 1996-97, there were five reported marine casualties in which only one vessel MV Al-Hadi had spilled oil which was cleaned up by Coast Guard of Mumbai. A minor spill subsequent to a leak from an oil barge was caused in Hooghly river. This was controlled by Calcutta Port Trust.

(c) A National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan has been formulated and is in force which is co-ordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.

Disposal of Red Sanders

4711. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to permit them to dispose of 800 tonnes of red sanders in the State;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the total amount obtained by the State Government in disposing of the red sanders so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has permitted the export of value added items made out of Red Sanders wood.

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has called global tenders for export of value added items made out of Red Sanders wood. No material has been sold so far.

Accounting System in Super Bazar

4712. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOL) : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bills of the suppliers pending for payment as on date;

(b) the date from which these are pending giving the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to discard the decentralised accounting system and unify the accounting system as hitherto; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) As per the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi there are about 2,500 bills amounting to Rs. 4.50 crores to be paid to the suppliers as on 30.4.97.

(b) Most of the bills mentioned at (a) above have been received by the Super Bazar, Delhi in the month of April, 97. However, receiving bill, processing it and making payment is a continuous process for the Super Bazar. The Super Bazar is normally making payment to the suppliers as per the agreed terms of payment. Sometimes due to non recovery of payment against credit sales made to the Govt., local bodies other institutions etc, the Super Bazar is unable to adhere to the payment schedule.